



C o n g r e s s m a n

SHERROD BROWN

WORKING FOR YOU

Fall 2003

## Veterans' Corner

### Online Veterans Resource Center



Congressman Brown announced an updated electronic resources web page to provide constituents with information on veterans services and legislation.

This new site will provide veterans with the service information they need, and allows them to follow the legislation that affects those services. The new site can be found by accessing: **[www.house.gov/sherrodbrown](http://www.house.gov/sherrodbrown)**.

### Disabled Veterans Tax

Congressman Brown joined Lorain County veterans organizations at the VA Clinic to support legislation that would repeal an 1891 law that bars veterans from receiving both military retirement benefits and disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans who qualify for both benefits see their military retirement reduced dollar-for-dollar for each dollar of VA disability benefits. About 9,600 veterans in Ohio lose military retirement benefits due to the Disabled Veterans Tax.

### Brecksville VA Hospital Update

Congressman Sherrod Brown announced his opposition to a proposal from the Bush administration's Department of Veterans Affairs to close the Brecksville Veterans Hospital, which serves many area veterans.

At a meeting on June 30 on the proposed consolidation of the Brecksville hospital with another facility, Brown said the plan to close these hospitals would shortchange veterans health. A commission established by the VA is examining the proposals to close seven VA hospitals nationwide. The commission is expected to vote on closing the facilities by the end of the year.

"Veterans deserve the quality health care we promised them. This administration hasn't given me a good reason why veterans in my district should lose their hospital. Now is not the time to cut back on these services," Brown said.

### New Akron VA Clinic

Congressman Brown joined area veteran leaders, elected and civic officials at a February 10 ribbon cutting for the new Akron Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 55 W. Waterloo Rd.



**Congressman Sherrod Brown joined Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health, and Actor Christopher Reeve, chairman of the Christopher Reeve Foundation, at a Capitol Hill press conference to introduce landmark federal legislation that calls for new funding to advance research, rehabilitation, and quality of life programs for persons living with paralysis, their caregivers, and their families.**

November, 2003

Dear Friends:

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have loved ones serving abroad in the military. Whether in Iraq, Afghanistan, or another location, they deserve our support.*

*I recently sponsored forums in Lorain and Summit Counties with some of our service men and women's families. They talked about the lack of resources such as water, protective gear, and antibiotics. They also talked about cancelled leave times and the uncertainty of when their loved ones were set to return—an especially difficult situation as we move toward the holiday season.*

*My website, **[www.house.gov/sherrodbrown](http://www.house.gov/sherrodbrown)**, includes links to various organizations that provide support for our troops and their families. Please take a moment to express your gratitude for their service.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sherrod Brown*

# 13th District News Roundup

## Fighting to Keep Jobs in Ohio

**Steel Update.** Congressman Brown is urging President Bush to stand up to the World Trade Organization's ruling that the tariffs imposed on imported steel violate international trade rules.

"The steelworkers in Ohio know this industry is a vital part of the domestic manufacturing sector and our entire economy. An early termination of the steel tariffs would seriously endanger the industry and domestic manufacturers. We must honor our commitment to American steelworkers and American industry and not bow to WTO pressure," Brown said.

**Trade Agreements.** On October 27, Congressman Brown joined area workers, labor leaders, and businesspeople at UAW Local 2000 in Sheffield to announce his opposition to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), a trade zone that would encompass 34 countries.

The FTAA, as proposed by President Bush, would allow trade laws that would make it easier for manufacturers to move jobs out of the U.S. FTAA would have the same effect on Ohio as NAFTA. Ohio has lost almost 200,000 manufacturing jobs in the last three years alone.

## Grants for Community Organizations and Law Enforcement

- The Strongsville Police Department received \$375,000 from the federal COPS program to hire five additional full-time police officers.
- The Lorain County Transit Board received a \$114,475 grant from the Department of Transportation to improve job access for area workers.
- The Brunswick City Fire Department received \$56,555 from the Department of Homeland Security to boost its fire prevention programs.
- The Elyria Access Program received a \$39,000 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for a week-long math and science camp session at Oberlin College.
- The Elyria and Elyria Township Fire Departments will receive \$38,000 and \$26,000, respectively, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to boost firefighter operations and fire safety programs.

## Congressional Page



Congressman Brown sponsored Omar Halabi, a student at Brecksville-Broadview Heights, as a congressional page for the fall term of 2003.

Halabi, the son of Ali and Hana Halabi of Brecksville, is an honor student whose activities include Youth in Government, class secretary, the Law Club, the school newspaper, and tennis.

Pages are nominated by members of Congress on a rotating basis to the Leader. Candidates must be 16 years of age and be serving their junior year in high school.

## Congressional Service Awards to Area High School Seniors

Congressman Brown recognized students from high schools in Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Medina counties in his district with Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition, which focus attention on outstanding young men and women who have distinguished themselves through service to their schools and communities.

Nicara Garcia and Tyler E. Furci (Admiral King); Martin Buchkovich and Jessica A. Neiger (Avon); Chris Bush and Jillian McMuldren (Avon Lake); Meghan L. Galinas and Joseph D. Bowman (Brecksville-Broadview Heights); Ben Allen and Bethany Connelly (Brookside); Trevor Prescott and Tania Lahood (Brunswick); Ian C. Wetherhold and

Jennifer Kerschner (Buckeye); Daniel Forthofer and Toni Celestino (Clearview); Kyle Timothy Berkley and Jessica Kobe (Columbia); Paul Boyer and Michela Buccini (Elyria Catholic); Michael Reilly and Shakeela Pouncy (Elyria); Jonathan Casbohm and Karis Howard (First Baptist Christian); Katie O'Grady, Morgan Szulewski-Francis, and Joseph Yost (Lakeridge Academy); Carissa Lauren Romero and Anthony Reed Miller (Lorain Catholic); Elizabeth M. Belu, Duane A. Price, and Brittany L. Ruiz (Southview); Shawna Brewer and Kyle Igneczi (Midview); Joe Downey and Natasha Strande (North Ridgeville); Sarah D'Abato and Grant Hayden (Open Door Christian); and Kyle B. Ramsey and Kim Slowbe (Strongsville).

# Summit County News



## Resolution Honoring Summit County AED Program

Congressman Sherrod Brown introduced a resolution in Congress that encourages communities across the country to follow Summit County's lead in expanding the availability of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in schools.

The legislation recognizes Summit County as a model for communities across America, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Terry Gordon, a cardiologist at Akron General Medical Center. Under Dr. Gordon's guidance, every one of Summit County's 59 middle and high schools, not to mention 47 city buildings, 17 police departments, and seven buildings at the University of Akron, have access to AEDs training programs.

The resolution honoring Summit County's efforts is H.Con.Res. 250.

## Grants from Federal Agencies for Summit County Communities and Organizations

- **Copley Fire Department—\$200,000** from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to boost its fire-fighter operations and fire safety program.
- **Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department—\$162,000** from the Department of Homeland Security to boost fire prevention programs.

***The University of Akron received two grants from the Department of Education:***

- **\$288,383 under the Upward Bound Math and Science Program**, which is dedicated to helping high school students who are from low-income families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree.
- **\$220,427 under the McNair Post-Baccalaureate program**, which prepares students from disadvantaged backgrounds for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.

## Congressional Service Awards to Summit County Students

Congressman Brown recognized 22 high school students from 11 Summit County high schools with Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition.

Brown established the awards program to focus attention on the outstanding young men and women who have distinguished themselves through service to their schools and communities.

This year's recipients include **Bridget Bogdewiecz** and **Adam Tassile** (Archbishop Hoban); **Rebecca DeLauder** and **John Gerbich** (Barberton); **Jeffrey M. Dezso** and **Ashley Scheffer** (Copley); **Jillian Fullerton** and **Brandon Policicchio** (Cuyahoga Falls); **Kathryn E. Bain** and **Patrick Powers** (Firestone); **Christopher K. Norris** and **Katie Starkey** (Garfield); **Erica Gardner** and **Ben Shull** (Kenmore); **Joanna Fuller** and **Greg Hatch** (Manchester); **Emily McDonough** and **Craig Michael Rohner** (Norton); **Mary Grace Alvord** and **Michael Mion** (St.Vincent-St. Mary); and **Eric Hammond** and **Ellen Kennedy** (Woodridge).

## Push for Steelworkers' Healthcare Bill of Rights

Members of the United Steelworkers of America joined Congressman Brown at his August 18 press conference where he touted the organization's Healthcare Bill of Rights.

Brown said the plan reflected the principles of universal coverage and prescription drug cost control on which legislation should be based to solve the crisis of 43 million uninsured Americans.

## Forum for Area Small Business Owners

On October 20, nearly 100 Summit County small business owners attended a seminar hosted by Congressman Sherrod Brown where they learned about opportunities for loans and other business enhancements. The seminar featured representatives from the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies as well as the Greater Akron Chamber.



HEALTH CARE ROUNDUP

Congressman Sherrod Brown serves as the Senior Democrat on the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, which has jurisdiction over Medicare, Medicaid, the Food and Drug Administration, prescription drugs, children's health initiatives, bioterrorism preparedness, and other critical health programs. The following briefs are a synopsis of some of the key health care issues on which he is working.

Fight for Importation of Safe, Affordable Medicine

Congressman Brown led a bipartisan coalition of legislators in passing a bill that allows for the importation of less expensive prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries.

The passage of this legislation was a major rebuke to the powerful, profitable lobbying arm of the pharmaceutical industry. Brown called the vote a victory for American consumers, who pay two, three, or four times what citizens of other countries pay for the same medication. “We can’t claim victory until drug prices drop to a reasonable level in this country,” he said.

Food Safety Update

Congressman Brown joined other congressional leaders in forming the Food Safety Caucus.

The Caucus will address the incidence of food-borne illness and the emerging challenges in food safety, such as globalization and the susceptibility of our food supply to a bioterrorist attack. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that foodborne illnesses affect over 75 million Americans every year.

Fight Against Global Disease

As a senior member of the International Relations Committee, Congressman Brown helped draft the United States Leadership Against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act. This bipartisan bill authorizes \$3 billion in relief for each of the next five years, including up to \$1 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria — the world's best tool to treat three diseases that kill six million people each year. The President signed this bill into law on May 27.

Women's Health Update

**Breast Cancer Awareness.** Congressman Brown is pushing for passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, which would expand research at the National Institutes of Health examining the role the environment plays in the development of breast cancer.

**Premature Births.** In 2001, more than 476,000 babies were born prematurely in the U.S., putting them at risk of such serious multiple health problems as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss. Congressman Brown is a cosponsor of the "PREEMIE Act," which authorizes the expansion of research into the causes and prevention of premature births.

Antibiotic Resistance

Congressman Brown introduced the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act to curb the nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in food animals.

The indiscriminate use of antibiotics to speed up the growth of farm animals, for instance, poses a significant public health risk, as strains of antibiotic-resistant bacteria are passed on to humans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says "antibiotic resistance is among CDC's top concerns."

The American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, and a coalition of consumer and science organizations have endorsed this bipartisan legislation. Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

Medicare Plan Places Retiree Coverage at Risk

Nearly 13 million retired Americans receive prescription drug coverage from a former employer. According to the Congressional Budget Office, about one-third of employers will drop their retiree drug benefits if H.R. 1 is signed into law. The same holds true of S. 1, the drug plan passed by the Senate. Both bills jeopardize retiree coverage while offering seniors drug benefits far less generous than those available under most retiree health plans.

Medicare Prescription Drugs

House Bill (H.R. 1) vs. Congressman Brown's Bill (H.R. 1199)

| Issue   | Brown Bill | H.R. 1 |
|---|------------|--------|
| Same monthly premium for every enrollee                             | Yes        | No     |
| Annual deductible   | \$100      | \$250  |
| Coverage gap between \$2,000-\$4,900                                | No         | Yes    |
| Allows government to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices | Yes        | No     |
| Medicare remains an entitlement                                     | Yes        | No     |
| Privatizes Medicare   | NEVER      | YES    |

## Forum on First Responders



In April, Congressman Brown held a forum at the University of Akron with Akron and Summit County elected officials and local first responders to assess local homeland security needs.

The forum, which included Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic and County Executive James B. McCarthy, came one year after the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act was passed by Congress. (See photo at left.)

The University of Akron's Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security Policy Research, one of a few such programs nationwide, is the only program in the nation accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Brown worked with Senators Bill Frist and Ted Kennedy to strengthen America's defenses against bioterrorism and served on the Senate-House conference committee that finalized the legislation.

## Winners of Congressional Art Contest

More than 100 people viewed 122 submissions from 113 student artists from high schools in Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, and Summit counties at Congressman Brown's annual Congressional Art Contest.

The winning submission from Colleen Dougherty of Strongsville High School is on display for a year in the United States Capitol. Her instructor is Ellen Goodworth.

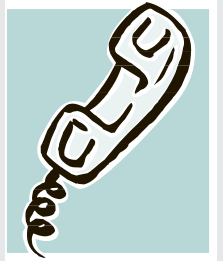
The second place winner, David Vang from Cheryl Phillips' class at Garfield High School in Akron, and third place winner, Persa Zula from Carol Klingel's class at Brunswick High School, have their works displayed in Congressman Brown's Washington office.

Student artists who received honorable mention from the panel of volunteer judges included Brandon Pearl, Senior at Kenmore High School; Anna Protodyakonov, Senior at North Royalton High School; Kenneth Slaughter, Senior at Garfield High School; and David Vang, Senior at Garfield High School.

## Brown Supports "Do Not Call" List

Ohioans can register their phone numbers to prevent telemarketing calls. Consumers can register online at <http://www.donotcall.gov/> or by telephone at (888) 382-1222.

Brown backed the legislation that established the Do Not Call list and supported the subsequent legislation to ratify the Federal Trade Commission's authority to establish a Do-Not-Call Registry after a federal judge ruled that the FTC lacked such oversight over telemarketing calls.



*Congressman Brown held Medicare town hall meetings in Lorain and Summit counties. Ruben Burks (pictured), the National Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance for Retired Americans, which represents three million retirees, thanked Brown for his support of preserving Medicare.*

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